AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A device for automatically identifying the language of a digital text, comprising:

means for prestoring first character strings that occur frequently anywhere respectively in words of a plurality of predetermined languages and characterize said predetermined languages,

means for prestoring second character strings that are atypical anywhere respectively in words of said predetermined languages,

means for analyzing words extracted from said digital text, thereby constructing for each extracted word all character strings contained in said extracted word and having lengths lying between one character and the number of characters in said extracted word,

means for comparing character strings contained in extracted words to prestored character strings in order to determine scores associated with said predetermined languages,

means for individually comparing each of all character strings contained in each said extracted word to said first and second prestored character strings of [[a]]each determined language so that whenever a first character string is found in said extracted

word, a score associated with said each determined language is increased by a first coefficient depending on the position of said first character string found in said extracted word, and, whenever a second character string is found in said extracted word, said score is decreased by a respective second coefficient that is associated with said found second character string, said respective second coefficient increasing and that increases as the probability of said found second character string in said each determined language decreases, and

means for comparing said scores for said text associated with said predetermined languages in order to determine the highest of said scores, which identifies the language of said text.

2.   (Original) The device claimed in claim **1**, wherein a first character string in an extracted word consists of one of the following character strings: a prefix, a pseudo-prefix, a suffix, a pseudo-suffix, an infix, a pseudo-infix.

3.   (Original) The device claimed in claim **1**, wherein said first coefficient of a first character string in said extracted word depends on the frequency of said character string in said determined language.

4.   (Original) The device claimed in claim **1**, wherein said first coefficient of a first character string in said extracted word depends on the length of said character string.

5.   (Original) The device claimed in claim **1**, wherein said first coefficient of a first character string in said extracted word is equal to:

PO (FR+LON),

where

PO is a coefficient depending on the position of said first character string in said extracted word,

FR is a coefficient depending on the frequency of said first character string in a determined language, and

LON is a coefficient depending on the length of said first character string.

6. (Previously presented) The device claimed in claim **1**, comprising comparator means for comparing each of said extracted words from said text with frequent words in said determined language and initially listed in storage means so that whenever a frequent word is found in said text, said score for said determined language is increased only by a coefficient depending on the frequency of said extracted word in said determined language.

7. (Previously presented) The device claimed in claim **1**, comprising comparator means for comparing each of said extracted words from said text with frequent words in said determined language and initially listed in storage means so that whenever a frequent word is found in said text, said score for said determined language is increased only by a coefficient depending on the length of said frequent word.

8. (Currently amended) A method of automatically identifying the language of a digital text, comprising the steps of:

prestoring first character strings that occur frequently anywhere respectively in words of a plurality of predetermined languages that characterize said predetermined languages;

prestoring second character strings that are atypical anywhere respectively in words of said predetermined languages;

analyzing words extracted from said digital text, thereby constructing for each extracted word all character strings contained in said extracted word and having lengths lying between one character and the number of characters in said extracted word,

comparing character strings contained in extracted words to prestored character strings in order to determine scores associated with said predetermined languages,

individually comparing each of all character strings contained in each said extracted word to said first and second prestored character strings of [[a]]each determined language so that whenever a first character string is found in said extracted word, a score associated with each said determined language is increased by a first coefficient depending on the position of said first character string found in said extracted word, and, whenever a second character string is found in said extracted word, said score is decreased by a respective second coefficient that is associated with said found second character string and that increases, said respective second coefficient increasing as the probability of said found second character string in each said determined language decreases, and

comparing said scores for said text associated with said predetermined languages in order to determine the highest of said scores, which identifies the language of said text.

9. (Currently amended) A <u>computer readable</u> storage device or storage medium <u>encoded with a data structure</u> ~~storing coded indicia representing a program~~ including program instructions adapted to automatically cause computer equipment to perform the steps of the method according to claim **8**, when the storage device or storage medium is installed and executed on computer equipment for which it is intended.

10. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said first coefficient of a first character string in said extracted word is equal to:

PO (FR+LON),

where

PO is a coefficient depending on the position of said first character string in said extracted word,

FR is a coefficient depending on the frequency of said first character string in a determined language, and

LON is a coefficient depending on the length of said first character string.

11. (New) The storage device or storage medium of claim 9, wherein said first coefficient of a first character string in said extracted word is equal to:

PO (FR+LON),

where

PO is a coefficient depending on the position of said first character string in said extracted word,

FR is a coefficient depending on the frequency of said first character string in a determined language, and

LON is a coefficient depending on the length of said first character string.